

NH Tidal Energy Commission Meeting

NHDES Pease Field Office, Portsmouth, NH
September 20, 2007, 9:30 AM

Members: Rep. Thomas Fargo, Co-Chair, City of Dover
Ken Baldwin, Co-Chair, UNH
Rep. Roland Hofemann, Dover
Rep. Marcia Moody, Newmarket
Erik Anderson, NH Commercial Fishermen's Assoc.
Cynthia Copeland, NHEP (Strafford Regional Planning Commission)
Michael Dugas, Department of Transportation
Michael Harrington, Public Utilities Commission
Jack Pare, Town of Newington
Otis Perry, Office of Consumer Advocate
Jack Ruderman, Office of Energy and Planning
Eric Steltzer, Rockingham Planning Commission
Peter Wellenberger, Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Other Attendees: Craig Yankes, NH Sustainable Energy Assoc.
Christian Williams, NH Coastal Program

Guest Speaker: Carl Kammerer, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Summary:

Co-chair, Rep. Tom Fargo, asked the attendees to introduce themselves and check contact information sheet (passed around) for correctness.

Dr. Carl Kammerer gave a presentation summarizing findings of a 2007 tidal current survey of the Piscataqua River. The survey collected tidal current data using an acoustic Doppler current profiler at 11 locations along the Piscataqua River. Dr. Kammerer presented preliminary data from three of the eleven locations, Henderson Point, the I-95 bridge, and Schiller Station, which showed that maximum currents in these locations varied from approximately 3 -5 knots.

Rep. Fargo then informed attendees that information about the commission, including the text of House Bill 694, Commission member contact information, meeting information, and relevant tidal energy information, is now available on the DES-New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) web site at: http://des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean_policy.html. He stressed the importance of sharing information and encouraged members to submit relevant tidal energy information to him at thomasfargo@comcast.net or to Chris Williams of the NHCP at cwilliams@des.state.nh.us for posting on the Commission's

web page. The NHCP will make every effort to post the information as quickly as possible.

Rep. Fargo then stated that the Commission would be able to accomplish its duties within the timeframes established by HB 694 most effectively if it created subcommittees. He recommended establishing four subcommittees each focusing on one of the following subject areas: 1) Permitting Requirements; 2) Public & Business Community Outreach; 3) Environmental & Wildlife Impact Analysis; and 4) Cost & Benefits Analysis. Each subcommittee would elect a chair and establish its own procedures and protocols. The subcommittees would meet more frequently than the Commission and would report their findings at Commission meetings. Rep. Fargo provided a sign-up sheet for each subcommittee and encouraged members to participate in one or more subcommittees.

A roundtable discussion followed. The discussion focused on the content of the Commission's initial report of its findings and recommendations due by November 1, 2007. It was agreed that the initial report would establish a framework for addressing the issues/questions raised by each of the subcommittees. The discussion then turned to the issue of ownership and jurisdiction of river beds. It was agreed that the Commission should seek an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on this issue.

The next commission meeting was scheduled for **Friday, November 2, 2007 at 1:00 PM at the NH Fish & Game Department (NHF&G) Office in Durham**. Directions to the NHF&G Office will be provided on the commission's web page.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM